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From Hongkong, for the week ended June 18, there are reported 215 cases of plague and 207 deaths, and for the week ended June 8, 161 cases and 155 deaths.

A case of plague was removed from the Canadian Pacific steamer *Empress of China* at Wa Sung, and the steamer was quarantined in Nagasaki.

Respectfully,

A. R. THOMAS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

GERMANY.

Report from Berlin—"Plague memoranda" sent out by the central board of health, Queensland, Australia.

BERLIN, GERMANY, June 6, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following extract from the publications of the imperial health office, No. 21, of May 22, 1901:

AUSTRALIA—*Queensland*.—The following "Plague memoranda" have been communicated by the central board of health to the various local medical officers:

1. When plague threatens, the recognition of the first case is of paramount importance, for the history of epidemics teaches over and over again that a single case has contaminated a hitherto clean country. In times outside those of an epidemic, plague diagnosis is, more or less, a matter of probability, and the disease has not unfrequently been mistaken for typhus or typhoid fevers, pneumonia, or acute blood poisoning. Plague in these forms is always grave; not only because the "pneumonic" form is highly infectious to other persons, but for the reason that the milder varieties—*e. g.*, *pestis minor* or the ambulant form of the disease by virtue of its mildness produces a false sense of security.

2. In order to help toward recognition of this disease in its obscurer manifestations, a statement of the clinical features exhibited will be found in Part II of this memorandum.

3. Cases of plague with such ill-defined clinical symptoms as referred to above are apt to elude diagnosis unless a bacteriological examination is additionally made on the patient or on the corpse.

With a view to assisting in the identification of plague, newly developing in one or other district, the central board of health has arranged for bacteriological testing, without cost to the local authority, of material submitted by their medical officer of health from the earliest suspected case or cases.

Directions for obtaining and forwarding the suspected material will be found in Part III of this memorandum.

4. An essential measure of precaution, in view of the observed relation between plague in rats and plague in the human subject, will be the prompt destruction of all rats in districts threatened or invaded by plague, care being taken that their carcasses are collected and burnt without being unduly handled.

Any unusual sickness or undue fatality observed among rats should put the medical officer on his guard.

5. The isolation hospital should have a plentiful supply of fresh air, and proper attention to cleanliness and disinfection, and, when not occupied by any patients, should be kept in good repair and the buildings well looked after by a competent caretaker.

6. The central board of health, having supplied themselves with a supply of Haffkine's Plague Prophylactic, will be prepared to issue this material in limited amount on application of the medical officers of health of districts actually invaded by plague.

II.

An ordinary attack of plague usually begins some three to five days after exposure to infection. Such attack may develop gradually, but, as commonly met with, there is a sudden onset with much fever, as indicated by a high temperature, rapid pulse, headache, hot skin, and thirst. The most distinctive sign of plague is the presence of swellings or "buboes" in the groin, armpit, or neck.

These "buboes" which led to the disease being called "bubonic plague," and which have no relation to venereal complaints, appear, as a rule, about the second or third day of the disease. But buboes are not an essential feature of plague. Cases occur in which these manifestations of the disease are greatly delayed, or even absent, as for instance, in "pneumonic" plague, and it is important, therefore, that in localities where plague is present or is threatened, cases of anomalous illness of the above sorts be without loss of time brought under medical supervision. In the so-called "ambulant" form of pestis minor or pestis ambulans, the affected person is hardly ill at all, presenting no definite symptoms perhaps beyond indolent, though painful swellings in groin or armpit. These mild or benign forms of plague have been observed in nearly all plague epidemics. The late Sir Richard Thorne, in his last report, remarks: "Fever with glandular swellings prevailed in Bombay before it was recognized that plague had reached that city; and it is impossible to read the medical history of this disease, in almost every part of the world, without being impressed with the frequency with which recognized plague has been preceded by ailments of such slight severity, involving some bubonic enlargement of glands and some rise in body temperature as to mask the real nature of the malady."

III.

Directions for obtaining and forwarding for bacteriological examination material from suspected cases of plague.

A.—FROM THE LIVING PERSON.

1. The plague bacilli are in most cases to be found only in the bubo.

To obtain specimens the bubo should be punctured with a needle of a syringe and the minute quantity of fluid obtained dried in a thin layer on a cover glass, slide, or, failing these, on a piece of clear window glass. Care must be taken that the needle actually penetrates the lymph gland itself.

When the diagnosis is difficult, a more certain method is to make a small incision (with the patient's consent) and obtain a scraping from the incised lymph gland.

2. Plague bacilli are found in the general circulation only in the more severe cases, and then are usually a sign of impending death.

In septicæmic cases without any bubo, blood from any part should be dried on glass.

B.—FROM THE DEAD BODY.

1. Cut out the inflamed lymph gland, together with some of its surrounding tissue, and place the whole in a wide-mouthed glass-stoppered bottle previously well washed out with alcohol, care being taken that no alcohol remains in the bottle. The bottle should have the stopper well secured and sealed.

2. Obtain also a piece of spleen, dealing with it in the same manner; or

3. Minute portions of the spleen pulp and similar preparation from the bubo should be smeared on glass and dried for microscopical examination.

4. A minute portion of the heart blood should be drawn into a capillary glass tube (a vaccine tube) sealed at both ends in a spirit lamp.

Respectfully,

FRANK H. MASON,
Consul-General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Berlin—Plague in various places.

BERLIN, GERMANY, *June 10, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following information received from the imperial health office at Berlin:

EGYPT.—On May 18, a homeless native, sick with the plague, was received at the Government hospital in Alexandria, and died there on the same day. Since then, up to May 25, no further cases of plague have been reported to the authorities.

BRITISH EAST INDIA.—During the week ended May 3, there occurred in the Presidency of Bombay 1,196 new cases and 1,040 deaths of the plague, being 154 cases and 67 deaths less than during the foregoing week. There were reported from the town of Karachi, however, a further 354 cases and 297 deaths of plague—that is to say, 57 cases and 34 deaths more than during the previous week. In the city of Bombay there occurred during the week ended May 4 only 433 new cases, 71 less than during the foregoing week. The number of deaths, however, increased again, for of 1,386, the total number of recorded deaths, 405 were proved to be due to plague, and a further 441 were designated as suspected plague, being 10 and 38, respectively, more than during the previous week.

CHINA—*Hongkong*.—During the six weeks from March 16 to April 27, there occurred 8, 14, 17, 18, 24, 65 new plague cases and 10, 10, 15, 20, 21, 55 deaths, respectively. Of the 146 cases, 118 occurred in the city of Victoria.

CAPE COLONY.—During the week ended May 4, 53 patients were received at the plague hospital in Cape Town, among them being 12 Europeans. After 33 plague patients had died during the week and 22 had been discharged as cured, there were still, on May 4, 125 patients under treatment. In the contact camps on May 4 there were 1,020 persons (among them 258 Europeans) under observation. Of these persons, 3 developed plague during the past week.

The fact that of those natives in the locations who have been treated with Haffkine's Plague Prophylactic only a few were taken sick with the plague, is regarded in Cape Town as a proof of the effectiveness of such treatment. Up to April 1, 14,897 persons had been treated with Haffkine's Prophylactic, of whom 13 contracted the plague and 9 died, because—as is claimed—some of them were already suffering with the